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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

KHPA Board Names Allison Acting Executive Director

(TOPEKA) – The Kansas Health Policy Authority Board voted today to name Andrew Allison as the agency's acting executive director, effective June 1. He will succeed Marcia Nielsen who announced earlier that she is stepping down to accept a faculty and administrative position at the University of Kansas Medical Center.

Allison, 42, has been the Deputy Director of KHPA since December 2005, and the state's Medicaid Director since November 2006. Before joining the KHPA, he spent six years at the Kansas Health Institute as a researcher and Director of Health Care Finance and Organization. His research focused primarily on the effectiveness, availability and cost of health care and health insurance in Kansas. He worked as a Medicaid budget analyst at the Office of Management and Budget in Washington, D.C., from 1992-95. He has a bachelor's degree in history, a master's degree in Public Policy, and a doctorate in economics.

KHPA Board Chairman Joe Tilghman said Allison will serve as acting executive director until a permanent appointment is made. The position is subject to Senate confirmation. He said the Board will begin discussions on naming a permanent executive director later this summer.

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